



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: February 29, 2008

Meeting Location: Wabash Valley Hospital
South River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Jan Mullen, Director Carroll and Clinton County DCS; Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; Kathy Shank, FCM Carroll County DCS; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor, Fountain County DCS; Judge John Rader, Warren County and Judge Loretta Rush, Tippecanoe County.

Council Members Absent: Coleen Hamrick, Tippecanoe County CASA Director, and Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

Others In Attendance: Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Angela Smith Grossman, Director Tippecanoe County DCS; Angie Guimond and Sonya Janssen, FCM Supervisors, Tippecanoe County; Jessica McCarthy and Deb Johnson of Wabash Valley Hospital; Autumn Badger, FCM Warren County; Michael Frye, Midwest Center

<h3>Meeting Minutes</h3>

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:30 am

1. Minutes from December 7, 2007 approved.
2. Community Partners report – Deb Johnson reported that Clinton County has had 20 referrals, Tippecanoe County 101 referrals, Benton County 16 referrals, Carroll 10 referrals, Fountain County 19 referrals, Warren County 12 referrals and White County 19 referrals. We are low on referrals; we need to get the word out to the public with flyers, brochures, etc. Wabash Valley has flyers for each county except Clinton and Tippecanoe. They will need to get with Howard Community for Clinton and CFRC for Tippecanoe.
Jessica McCarthy has gone to the schools and churches to give them information. She said they seem hesitant and she isn't sure if that is because they may not really understand what the program is or how it works.

Cindy Mason said there is a huge need for funds for legal assistance for families and asked if this could come from the Community Partners emergency fund. It may be possible that we could amend what we are able to fund. Wabash Valley will need to look at the contract and see if that is possible. Judge Rush has a website that she sends to families that helps them to self-serve some of their legal needs. The website is www.in.gov/judiciary/selfservice.

3. Region 5 Progress Reports – Gil said we are doing pretty well with these. No one had any questions.
4. Practice Reform Updates – These are broke down by county with Region and State averages shown. The one we are still struggling with is the Repeat Maltreatment. We're doing well in Visits and Contacts. The smaller counties' numbers suffer in the Final Adoption Rates because they just don't have that many. Clinton and Tippecanoe Counties look better. We should keep an eye on the Length of Stay in Out of Home Placement report because it is a good report for older children. We're doing much better in our Sibling Placements. Average Number of Placement Moves – we're below average as a Region. We're doing well on the Locally Placed CHINS report also. All in all, the CHINS by County looks the way we want it to. The bottom graphs of each report are still not accurate but that is being worked on. It isn't catching information properly for some reason.
5. Screen Out Reports – Gil looks at these each month. He pulls some from each county to see if there are any problems. We are pretty consistent and doing a nice job.
6. Practice Reform Updates – Landra wasn't here to give an update but Gil said we are doing a good job of getting the facilitators trained. It's hard in Tippecanoe County because there are so many new workers. They all need to be trained by July 1st.
7. County Requests –
 - Angela Smith Grossman, Tippecanoe County –
 - RAD – this is a youth version of an adult program to teach kids 4 to 12 years old self defense against aggressive behavior. They have a summer camp. She would like to request \$10,000 for this program
 - Triangle Park – a lot of our kids go here and this money would help finance a case manager for our kids. She would like to request \$12,000 for this program.
 - Growing Child – kiosks in the library and at Head Starts. She would like to request \$10,000 for this.
 - Foster Parent Support Nights – Educates foster parents on

community resources as well as DCS services. Guest speakers include therapists and CASAs. Sometimes foster parents get confused as to what their role is with these providers. She would like to request \$4,000 for this program. That would help with refreshments, etc.

Motion to approve made by Judge Rader, seconded by Judge Rush. Motion passed.

Judge Rush – Warren County Requested Expenditures –

- Bi-County Opportunity Center (alternative school): We would like to provide continued support for this outstanding service in the amount equal to the 2007 level of \$18,500.
- Warren County Summer Parks Program – this program is planning to expand by including children who are Junior High School age this summer and hopes to receive increased funding from the Town of Williamsport in addition to their past support. We are requesting approval to fund at the 2007 level of \$3,500.
- Before/After School Child Care Program – this program has significantly helped reduce the number of neglect reports of children left at home alone before and after school. They have traditionally provided service to children who are working with our agency at little if any cost. We wish to continue funding at the 2007 level of \$2,500.
- Home-School Advisor Program – this program funds an outreach person with social work background to work with elementary aged children identified at risk of failing because of behavior or emotional issues. These children are at risk of experiencing abuse/neglect or participating in delinquent acts. Frequently this individual is able to identify and engage the child and families in services before this agency must get involved. We are again requesting support at the 2007 level of \$3,500.
- WAKE UP, a new this year service to work with children ages 13-17 who are either involved in Informal Adjustments, CHINS, on Probation or at risk of being on probation or referred by the Court. This service will work with kids for 12 weeks once per week. Attendance will be mandatory and will provide a group setting for education, support and encouragement of behaviors and choices that will help them succeed. Families United will deliver the service with a cost of

\$480 per individual. The Warren Circuit Court and Probation will provide in-kind support to meet the need for a facility and attendant auxiliary services (lights, heat, etc.). Families United is also exploring other grant opportunities. This grant will provide start up funds that will cover the cost of the first five referred students. We request approval to support this service with a grant of \$2,000.

Motion to approve made by Judge Rader, seconded by Judge Rush. Motion passed.

8. IV-B Proposal process has begun. Judge Rader asked to receive Warren County's. Judge Rush requested they be emailed to them.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location: The next meeting will be April 25, 2008, at 7:30 a.m. at the Wabash Valley Hospital on South River Road in West Lafayette.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:20 am.